

message is applied through a microphone, converted into a digital signal and recorded in a memory. The voice card comprises a D/A converter for converting the digital data stored in the memory to analog data, which can be reproduced as a voice from the speaker. In particular, "The digital data stored in the memory 22 can be transmitted through the transmitting and receiving apparatus 3" (see col. 4, lines 49-51).

In contrast with the storage medium of the subject invention, the output lines of the apparatus described in Nagata et al. are not exclusively connected to an output of the conversion unit. Rather, the digital audio data, stored in the memory, can be easily accessed for copying.

As claimed in claim 1, "the output lines of the storage medium, on which the useful analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit, for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage medium, while the audio and/or video data is not externally available in digital form".

It is well founded that "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants therefore submit that the above element of claim 1 is neither shown nor suggested by Nagata et al.

In response thereto, the Examiner states, in paraphrasing the language in claim 1, "...and in that the output lines of the storage medium, on which the analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit (Nagata: see for example, Column 4, Line 42-45)), for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage medium (Nagata: see for example, Column 4 Line 44-45), while the audio and/or output is not externally available in digital form (Nagata: see for example, Column 4 Line 41-42): the digital data is stored internally in the memory)."

The portion of Nagata et al. cited by the Examiner reads as follows:

"The D-A converter 23 converts the digital data stored in the memory 22 to analog data, which can be reproduced as a voice from the speaker 15."

This portion of Nagata et al. states that the output from the memory 22 in the voice recording card 1 is connected to the converter 23 which supplies analog signals to a speaker 15 incorporated as part of the voice recording card 1. Hence, the output lines of the voice recording card 1 (the storage medium as claimed in claim 1) are not connected to the output of the conversion unit as specifically claimed in claim 1. Rather,

Applicants submit that the Examiner does not address the portion of Nagata et al. that specifically states:

"Since the memory 22 is connected to the interface 24 and the interface 24 is connected to the transmitting and receiving apparatus 3 via the contact 18, the digital data stored in the memory 22 can be transmitted through the transmitting and receiving apparatus 3...." (col. 4, lines 47-50).

As such, contrary to the limitation in claim 1 which states "the output lines of the storage medium, on which the useful analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit, for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage medium, while the audio and/or video data is not externally available in digital form", the output lines of Nagata et al., i.e., contact 18 (shown in Fig. 2), are not connected to the conversion unit, but rather are connected through the interface 24 directly to the memory 22, thereby providing the stored digital signals to the outside of the voice recording card, directly opposite from that which is claimed in claim 1.

The Truchsess patent discloses a device and method for controlling digitally-stored sounds to provide smooth acceleration and deceleration effects in which a voice IC 30 contains integrated memory and a digital-to-analog converter 24. However, Applicants submit that Truchsess teaches away from that disclosed in Nagata et al., i.e., the ability to access the digital data stored in the

memory. Hence, the combination of Truchsess with Nagata et al. would render at least a portion of Nagata et al. inoperative. Further, there then would not be any connections for the output 18 of Nagata et al.

The Micic et al. patent discloses an apparatus for the digital storage of audio signals employing read only memories. However, Applicants submit that Micic et al. does not supply that which is missing from Nagata et al., i.e., "the output lines of the storage medium, on which the useful analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit, for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage medium, while the audio and/or video data is not externally available in digital form".

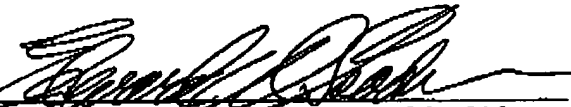
The Scibora patent discloses a universal compressed audio player in which a conversion unit is configurable subject to authorization control and/or irreversibly. However, Applicants submit that Scibora does not supply that which is missing from Nagata et al., i.e., "the output lines of the storage medium, on which the useful analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit, for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage medium, while

the audio and/or video data is not externally available in digital form".

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1, 2 and 4-7, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
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